

IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims are as follows:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein:

the verifier determines the authorization based on a verification of a presence of an entirety of a data set
5 corresponding to the protected material.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein:

said storing means stores the damaged version on a removable media.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein:

said storing means stores the damaged version in a temporary storage device, and stores the repaired version in a
5 permanent storage device.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein:

the damaging means damages a select portion of the protected material to form the damaged version, and

5 the repairing means repairs a corresponding select portion of the damaged version to form the repaired version.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for disabling the damaging means in order to prevent subsequent damage to the protected material, after the verifier
5 determines the authorization.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein

the damaging means comprises:

a first device for damaging the select portion of the
5 protected material via an exclusive-or function with a key, and

the repairing means comprises:

a second device for repairing the select portion of the protected material via an exclusive-or function with the key.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein

the key is provided via a random process.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein

the key includes a series of random numbers that are provided via a pseudo-random process based on a key-seed.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein

the key is destroyed if the verifier fails to determine the authorization.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

means for rendering the protected material while the verifier is determining the authorization.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of protecting protected material comprising the steps of:

receiving the protected material;

generating a damaged version of the protected material;

5 determining an authorization to process the protected material;

storing the damaged version of the protected material while determining the authorization; and

repairing the damaged version of the protected material to
10 form a repaired version of the protected material after determining
the authorization.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12,
wherein

the determining the authorization step is based on a
verification of a presence of an entirety of a data set
5 corresponding to the protected material.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12,
wherein

the storing the damaged version step includes storing the
damaged version on a removable media.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12,
wherein

the storing the damaged version step includes storing the
damaged version in a temporary storage device, and wherein the
5 method further comprises the step of:

storing the repaired version in a permanent storage
device.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

 said generating steps comprises damaging a select portion of the protected material to form the damaged version, and wherein

5 said step of repairing the damaged version comprises repairing a corresponding select portion of the damaged version to form the repaired version.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16,

wherein

 said step of damaging a select portion of the protected material includes performing an exclusive-or operation on the 5 select portion with a key, and

 step of repairing the damaged version includes performing an exclusive-or operation on the corresponding select portion with the key.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17,

wherein said method further comprises the step of:

 generating the key via a random process.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18,

wherein

the step of generating the key includes generating a series of random numbers via a pseudo-random process based on a
5 key-seed.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

destroying the key if a failure is reported in determining the authorization.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

providing an undamaged version of the protected material for rendering while determining the authorization.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for storing protected material, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving protected material;

5 means for generating a damaged version of said protected material;

means for storing said damaged version of said protected material;

a verifier for determining an authorization to process said protected material; and

10 means for repairing the damaged version of said protected material in response to said verifier determining the authorization.